

Kindly amend claims 21, 22, 24, and 26-32
as follows:

21. (Amended) A mat produced by a process comprising:
placing a fabric layer, an uncured rubber backing
layer, and a frame in a press between an inflatable bag and a
heated platen;

inflating the bag to press the fabric and uncured
rubber backing layers against the heated platen so that said
uncured rubber backing layer flows and accumulates adjacent
said frame;

heat-curing the rubber layer in the press so that
said rubber layer: (i) adheres to the fabric layer; and, (ii)
defines [bonded together in which the rubber backing has] an
integral thickened peripheral region that extends outwardly
beyond the fabric layer[, when produced by a process according
to any preceding claim].

22. (Amended) A mat according to claim 21 [which has]
further comprising holes in the backing layer.

24. (Amended) A moulding sheet for use in making mats
by heat-compression moulding an assembly of an uncured rubber
backing layer and a fabric layer, the sheet comprising or
being associated with, a frame defining the mat periphery,
wherein the frame has a height that approximates twice the
thickness of the uncured rubber backing layer.

26. (Amended) A moulding sheet according to claim 24
[or 25] wherein the frame is secured to or integral with the
moulding sheet.

27. (Amended) A moulding sheet according to claim 24[,
25 or 26] wherein the moulding sheet is of metal.

28. (Amended) A moulding sheet according to [any one of] claim[s] 24[-27] wherein the moulding sheet has spikes to provide holes in the backing layer.

29. (Amended) A moulding sheet according to [any one of] claim[s] 24[-27] wherein the frame is substantially uninterrupted.

30. (Amended) A moulding sheet according to [any one of] claim[s] 24[-29] wherein the frame is substantially rectangular.

31. (Amended) A moulding sheet according to [any one of] claim[s] 24[-30] wherein the frame has rounded corners.

32. (Amended) A moulding sheet according to [any one of] claim[s] 24 [-31] wherein the frame is formed from circular section metal rod.

Kindly add new claims ~~34~~ - 100 as follows:

34. A process for making a mat having a fabric layer and a rubber backing layer with a border extending beyond the fabric layer using a press having an inflatable bag, a heated platen and a frame defining the extent of the border located between the bag and the platen, the process comprising the steps of:

placing a fabric layer and an uncured rubber backing layer in the press between the inflatable bag and the heated platen; and,

inflating the bag to press the layers against the heated platen by applying a pressure to the assembled layers including the border portion of the backing layer, to heat-cure the rubber layer and adhere it to the fabric layer, wherein the height of the frame is greater than the thickness

of the uncured rubber backing layer, so that the backing layer, when cured and adhered to the fabric layer in a finished mat, has an integral thickened peripheral portion, wherein the thickness of said integral peripheral region increases towards the periphery of the mat.

35. A process for making a mat according to claim 34, further comprising forming holes in the backing layer.

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36. A mat according to claim 21, wherein the thickness of said integral peripheral region approximately doubles towards the periphery of the mat.

37. A mat according to claim 34, wherein the thickness of said integral peripheral region approximately doubles towards the periphery of the mat.

38. A mat having a fabric layer and a rubber backing layer bonded together, in which the rubber backing has an integral peripheral region beyond the fabric layer, and the thickness of said integral peripheral region increases towards the periphery of the mat.

39. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the thickness of said integral peripheral region approximately doubles towards the periphery of the mat.

40. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer includes a pile fabric.

41. A mat according to claim 40, wherein the fabric layer includes a tufted pile.

42. A mat according to claim 41, wherein the tufted pile is cut, looped or both.

43. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer includes a synthetic fibre.

44. A mat according to claim 43, wherein the synthetic fibre includes polyamide, polyester, polypropylene or a blend of two or more of those fibers.

45. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer includes a natural fibre.

46. A mat according to claim 45, wherein the natural fibre includes cotton, viscose or a blend of those fibers.

47. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer has a weight in the range 300-1200g/m², preferably approximately 640g/m².

48. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer includes a woven or non-woven substrate.

49. A mat according to claim 48, wherein the substrate includes polyester or polypropylene.

50. A mat according to claim 48, wherein the substrate has a density in the range 70-300g/m², preferably approximately 100g/m².

51. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the rubber backing layer includes a natural or synthetic rubber material.

52. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer includes a nitrile or SBR rubber material, or a blend of those rubber materials.

53. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a hardness in the range 35-75 IRHD, preferably approximately 60 IRHD.

54. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a thickness in the range 0.5-3.0mm, preferably approximately 1.01mm.

55. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer includes surface formations in the form of raised projections and/or indentations.

56. A mat according to claim 55, wherein the surface formations provide cleats, a pattern and/or a logo.

57. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer includes perforations.

58. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has rounded corners.

59. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a concave edge.

60. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a clean edge.

61. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the integral peripheral region has a width of approximately 2cm.

62. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the dimensions of the mat are approximately 120cm x 80cm.

63. A mat having a fabric layer and a rubber backing layer bonded together, in which the rubber backing has an integral peripheral region beyond the fabric layer with increased tear resistance.

64. A mat according to claim 63, wherein the thickness of said integral peripheral region approximately doubles towards the periphery of the mat.

65. A mat according to claim 63, wherein the fabric layer includes a pile fabric.

66. A mat according to claim 65, wherein the fabric layer includes a tufted pile.

67. A mat according to claim 66, wherein the tufted pile is cut, looped or both.

68. A mat according to claim 63, wherein the fabric layer includes a synthetic fibre.

69. A mat according to claim 68, wherein the synthetic fibre includes polyamide, polyester, polypropylene or a blend of two or more of those fibers.

70. A mat according to claim 63, wherein the fabric layer includes a natural fibre.

71. A mat according to claim 70, wherein the natural fibre includes cotton, viscose or a blend of those fibers.

72. A mat according to claim 63, wherein the fabric layer has a weight in the range 300-1200g/m², preferably approximately 640g/m².

83. A mat according to claim 76, wherein the rubber backing layer has rounded corners.

84. A mat according to claim 76, wherein the rubber backing layer has a concave edge.

85. A mat according to claim 76, wherein the rubber backing layer has a clean edge.

86. A mat according to claim 63, wherein the integral peripheral region has a width of approximately 2cm.

87. A mat according to claim 63, wherein the dimensions of the mat are approximately 120cm x 80cm.

AS 88. A moulding sheet for producing a mat having a fabric layer and a rubber backing layer bonded together, the rubber backing having an integral peripheral region beyond the fabric layer, whereby the thickness of said integral peripheral region increases towards the periphery of the mat.

89. A moulding sheet according to claim 88, the sheet comprising or being associated with a frame defining the mat periphery, wherein the frame has a height that is approximately twice the height of the uncured rubber backing.

90. A moulding sheet according to claim 88, the sheet including projections for forming indentations in the rubber backing layer.

91. A moulding sheet according to claim 88, the sheet including perforations for forming cleats in the rubber backing layer.

92. A moulding sheet according to claim 91, wherein the perforations have a diameter of approximately 2mm and are set approximately 5cm apart in a square pitch.

93. A moulding sheet according to claim 88, the sheet including spikes for forming perforations in the rubber backing layer.

94. A moulding sheet according to claim 93, wherein the spikes are set approximately 10cm apart in rows, with approximately 5cm between the rows and a staggered pitch.

95. A moulding sheet according to claim 88, wherein the sheet is made of aluminum of thickness approximately 1.6mm.

96. A moulding sheet according to claim 88, wherein the frame is generally rectangular.

97. A moulding sheet according to claim 96, wherein the frame has dimensions of approximately 121cm x 81cm.

98. A moulding sheet according to claim 96, wherein the frame has rounded corners.

99. A moulding sheet according to claim 88, wherein the frame is made of round section metal.

100. A moulding sheet according to claim 98, wherein the frame has a diameter in the range 2-3mm.
